

## **Inside Stevens**

February 20, 2008

### **Stevens Pass Plays Host to the Buddy Werner Championships**

On February 29 – March 2, 2008, the Stevens Pass Alpine Club (SPAC) and Stevens Pass Resort will be proudly teaming up to host the Buddy Werner Championships. The BWC brings together the best racers in the region who are 12 years old or younger. 26 Teams from Washington, Oregon and Idaho will be sending their top 7 boys and 7 girls to compete for the honor of best individual and team in Slalom and Giant Slalom. A race of this caliber can certainly be the highlight in the career of a young athlete. Many past BWC participants have gone on to join the U.S. Ski Team and even win an Olympic Gold Medal.

During the 3 days of festivities and competition, the race organizers, racers and family members will be headquartered out of the Pacific Crest Lodge. We recommend to those guests not participating in this event to utilize the Granite Peaks Lodge or Tye Creek Lodge. The Big Chief chairlift will serve the two race venues on Showcase (Giant Slalom) and I-5 (Slalom). Team training takes place on Friday and the races run concurrently on Saturday and Sunday.

#### **What does this mean for our guests who are not involved in the BWC extravaganza?**

**Big Chief Chair will be open to the public.** Access will be available to the Double Diamond chair and the backside of the mountain. Due to the volume of racers and spectators, the sage veteran looking for first tracks on the backside would do well to opt for Hogsback to Tye Mill as the most streamlined route.

Free-skiing access to Showcase and I-5 however, will be limited. Access to those runs will be from “Steve’s Run”, a blue trail on the left after unloading the chair. This run will be groomed daily. The remainder of the mountain will not be impacted by this event leaving ample space for people to enjoy their day.

Each morning members of the Resort Services Host Program will be stationed at the base of Big Chief to answer any questions about the mountain or the event. Stevens Pass is delighted to welcome the athletes and families from across the region. We hope you will have an opportunity to stop by and share in the excitement of this wonderful event.

#### **2008 SPAC Buddy Werner Team:**

##### **Girls**

Lindsay Ahmann  
Madeline Dibble  
Taylor Fenske  
Addy Henry  
Laura Isaza  
Mckenna Lowe  
Kendall O’Kinsella

##### **Boys**

Colin Boit  
Grant Duffy  
Jarett Grimm  
Eric Keenan  
Keegan Otter  
Travis Ulvestad  
Chase Vanek

#### **Who was Buddy Werner?**

Wallace “Buddy” Jerold Werner is recognized as America’s first truly world-class ski racer. Born in 1936 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Werner had a mercurial career that was brought to an untimely end. He began his skiing activities as a ski jumper on famed Howelsen

Hill, winning his first Regional Championship in jumping at age 10. As a competitive skier, he completed a skiing record which is unequalled by any other American. In April of 1964, only 28 years old, he died while trying to outrace an avalanche in the Swiss Alps while filming a ski movie at the time.

Buddy's breakneck style led to some spectacular spills, but also enabled him to win many top European races. Among his accomplishments:

- First American selected to the FIS Alpine Team, 1958
- Member US Olympic Alpine Team, 1956, 1960 and 1964
- Three-time Holmenkollen Champion in Norway in 1954, '59 & '62
- First American to win the famed Hahnenkamm downhill in Kitzbuehel, Austria in 1959
- Three-time Nat'l Alpine Champion in Giant Slalom, 1957, '59 & '63
- Two-time winner of the Roche Cup, 1961 & 1959
- Posthumously inducted into National Ski Hall of Fame, 1964

While Buddy won several races on the European circuit, he never claimed an Olympic medal. In 1960, perhaps his best opportunity, he was unable to compete because of a broken leg.

In addition to his athleticism, Buddy Werner was an "incredible person", recalls US Olympic medalist Billy Kidd. "He was thoughtful, considerate and an extremely hard worker yet was also down to earth. He always had time to talk with the fans, little kids and gatekeepers."

Mt. Werner, location of the Steamboat Springs Ski Resort, (formerly known as Storm Mountain), was renamed in his honor. And, a library named in his honor "The Bud Werner Memorial Library" opened on February 4, 1967 in Steamboat Springs.

Whether you are here for a day on the slopes or to participate in the Buddy Werner Championships, we hope you have a magnificent experience.

Shawn Smith  
Director of Resort Services